

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the microbacterial production of amino acids, comprising the steps of: providing a microbial organism having a certain export carrier activity and a certain export gene-expression,

increasing, selectively, one of

the export carrier activity of said microbial organism specific for a particular amino acid with an amino acid sequence as given in ~~SEQ ID No. 2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 in accordance with the export carrier activity endogenous to said microbial organism,

and the export gene expression of said microbial organism specific for a particular amino acid with a nucleotide sequence of nucleotide 1016 to 1726 according to ~~SEQ ID No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 in accordance with the export gene expression endogenous to said microbial organism by means of one of the steps selected from the group of:

- i) mutating the export carrier gene, such that an export carrier with increased export activity is generated,
- ii) increasing the number of gene copies of the export carrier gene,
- iii) modifying regulatory signals assigned to the export gene, and
- iv) amplifying regulatory signals assigned to the export gene,

~~such that~~ whereby amino acids are produced by said microbial organism with increased efficiency, and

- v) recovering the amino acids from the culture.

2. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the endogenous export carrier activity of the microorganism is increased.

3. (original) A process according to claim 2, wherein, by mutation of the endogenous export gene, a carrier with higher export activity is generated.

4. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the export gene expression of the export carrier is increased by increasing the number of gene copies, whereby the export carrier gene is expressed from the additional gene copies.

5. (original) A process according to claim 4, wherein, in order to increase the number of copies, the export gene is installed in a gene construct.

6. (original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the export gene is installed in a vector with a low number of copies.

7. (previously amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein the export gene is installed in a gene construct, which includes regulatory gene sequences operably linked to the export gene.

8. (currently amended) A process according to claim 7, wherein the regulatory gene sequence includes a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence as given in ~~SEQ ID No. 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 from nucleotide 1421-2293.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein a microorganism producing the respective amino acid is transformed with the gene construct including the export gene.

11. (original) A process according to claim 10, wherein a microorganism of the type Corynebacterium is transformed with the gene construct including the export gene.

12. (previously amended) A process according to claim 10, wherein, for the transformation, a microorganism is utilized in which the enzymes which participate in the synthesis of the corresponding amino acids are deregulated.

13. (previously amended) A process according to claim 10, wherein, for the transformation, a microorganism is utilized which contains an increased amount of the metabolites of the central metabolism.

14. (previously amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the export gene is isolated from a microorganism strain of the type Corynebacterium.

15. (previously amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein the export gene sequence is identified by comparison with the sequence of an already known export gene.

16. (currently amended) A process according to claim 15, wherein the amino acid sequence derived from the export gene sequence to be identified is compared with the amino acid sequence given in ~~SEQ ID No. 2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the export gene expression is increased by amplifying the transcription signals.

18. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein as export gene, a gene with a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence given in ~~SEQ ID No. 2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2 is utilized.

19. (currently amended) A process according to claim 18, wherein as export gene, one of the genes with the nucleotide sequence of nucleotide 1016 to 1726 according to ~~SEQ ID No. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 is utilized.

20. (original) A process according to claim 1 for the manufacture of L-lysine.

21 - 42 (canceled)

43. (currently amended) ~~The use of an export gene for increasing the~~ A process for the increased microbial production of amino acid production of microorganisms by acids using an export gene, comprising the steps of:

- i) constructing a gene construct including an export carrier gene,
- ii) inserting said construct into a suitable vector,
- iii) transforming a suitable host cell with said vector,
- iv) cultivating said transformed host cell in a culture medium,
- v) recovering the amino acid from the culture, and
- vi) determining the desired amino acid amount.

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A process according to claim 43, wherein the gene construct additionally carries regulatory gene sequences.

47. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A process according to claim 43, wherein an export gene from Corynebacterium is utilized.

48. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A process according to claim 43, wherein Corynebacterium is used as amino acid producing microorganism.